



## **SPRING GROVE CEMETERY TRUSTEES MINUTES March 8, 2016**

Present: Jack Bigelow, Sandra Dearborn, William Canane, Robert Goodwin, Gail Ralston

Also Present: Marc Fournier, Deputy Director of Public Works, Highway Superintendent

Jack called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM

### **Minutes**

- Sandra motioned to conduct another review the minutes of the October 31<sup>st</sup> Cemetery Walk-through. Gail seconded. Vote was unanimous to review the minutes of the October 31<sup>st</sup> Cemetery Walk-through during the April meeting as those who voted on accepting the minutes had not been present at the meeting.
- Minutes of the January 2016 meeting were reviewed and discussed. Gail moved to approve. Robert seconded. Vote to approve by Gail, Robert and Jack. William and Sandra were not at the January meeting and therefor abstained. January 2016 Minutes were approved 3-2.
- Minutes of the February 2016 meeting were reviewed and discussed, with minor corrections noted. Gail moved to approve, Robert seconded. Vote to approve with minor changes was unanimous.

### **Discussion and vote regarding the status of dogs being allowed in the cemetery**

- After a summary of the Town of Andover bylaw; Article XII, Chapter II, Restraint, was presented by Marc Fournier, Gail moved to continue allowing dogs in the cemetery, when restrained as outlined in Article XII, Chapter II. Robert seconded. Discussion, at times heated, included topics of the additional signs, leashing, and liability. Sandra handed out photos of signs from other cemeteries where dogs are not allowed. She mentioned the recent dog attack at the Ward Hill reservation and reminded all present of the Spring Grove Cemetery mission statement. The vote, as moved and seconded, was taken. Jack, Robert and Gail voted in favor of allowing dogs in the cemetery when restrained as outlined in the aforementioned bylaw. Sandra and Bill were opposed. The motion to allow passed 3-2.
- Bill asked to go on record that he believes he was accused of being a bully.
- During the February 2016 meeting Bill had questions for Gail that she could not answer because she needed to present at another meeting in the building. Gail answered those questions in writing and handed them out at tonight's meeting.
- Marc reminded the members of the importance of following the Code of Conduct in the meetings. Sandra asked that all members follow "Roberts Rules of Order" in meetings.
- Discussion turned back to the issue of dogs, leashing, safety matters in regards to approaching the owner of an off-leash dog, and the effectiveness of putting the dog issue to a Town Meeting vote versus by Trustee vote.
- Sandra suggested inviting the cemetery Selectmen Liaison to a future Trustee's meeting. It was agreed that this would be best after the elections take place later this month.

- Bill suggested sending a form to the families of the deceased at Spring Grove Cemetery to ask how they feel about the subject of dogs in the cemetery. Robert thought that was a good idea, as did Marc. Sandra expressed that it should be considered, but cautioned that it would have to be worded carefully. Marc suggested a simple survey format. Discussion about whether to conduct a survey went on for a few minutes before being tabled for further discussion at the next meeting.

### **Financials**

- Financials for January and February 2016 were distributed and discussed.

### **Cemetery GIS update**

- The public facing site has gone live. Sandra asked Marc and the recording secretary to find out the sizes of the lots (2 grave or 4 grave) that were just laid out in Section H. She also asked that the link to the public facing site be published on the Memorial Hall Library website, where other cemeteries have similar links published.

### **Flower Fund**

- As a follow up to a discussion touched upon at the February meeting, Sandra contacted the Town Treasurer, David Reilly, to ask him about the status of the Flower Fund. Sandra explained what the flower fund was to the Trustees and conveyed that Mr. Reilly told her that it was much the same now as it was back in 2007, with approximately \$35,000 current balance. The Town Treasurer administers the fund and hires the florist who puts flowers on the graves of those in the fund. This occurs before Memorial Day annually. Mr. Reilly will be furnishing a list of recipients/members and the actual account balance to Sandra.

### **National Register of Historic Places**

- Sandra started discussion about Spring Grove Cemetery (S.G.C.) and the National Register of Historic Places. She stated that S.G.C. was put on the register back in 1980 by the Andover Historical Society. Sandra also pointed out that although the cemetery is on the National Register, it is not on the Andover Historic Preservation list. She would like to apply for Grant money, and if obtained, possibly use it for granite curbing in the cemetery.

### **New Town Yard Proposal**

- There was a brief discussion of the new Town Yard proposal. The current site is inadequate for the departmental operations. Sandra asked Marc if the new Town Yard is approved, are there were any plans to move the Parks & Grounds division out of the cemetery and into the new site. Marc responded that we will need to see what happens at Town Meeting.

### **Staff Report**

- Marc told the Trustees that he and Paul are meeting with the Town Engineers to discuss paving at the cemetery.

### **Adjournment**

- Gail moved to adjourn the meeting. Robert seconded. All voted in favor.

- The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm
- The date of the next meeting is April 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Plant & Facilities conference room.